



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Division

Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory
2331 West 31st Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80211
(303) 477-0049 FAX: (303) 477-5097
WWW.COLORADO.GOV/RMRAHL

FECAL SAMPLING SUBMISSION PROTOCOL FOR *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* DIRECT FECAL PCR

Although *M. paratuberculosis* has, in the past, been thought not to be infectious to humans, its possible role in Crohn's disease is uncertain and remains to be determined. Therefore, appropriate safety precautions should be taken when obtaining fecal samples.

1. An accredited or regulatory veterinarian or person(s) under his/her direct supervision must obtain all fecal samples.
2. Obtain the fecal sample from the rectum of each individual animal using a **new** examination glove or sleeve for each sample. Place feces in individual whirl-pak bags or similar container.
3. Submit samples in a properly sealed fecal container. Number the samples in sequence, to match the submission form. The submission form must include the collection date.
4. If submitting fecal samples for pooled fecal PCR, properly identify which samples are to be pooled (no more than 5 fecals per pool). RMRAHL will pool the fecal samples upon receipt to the laboratory.
5. Refrigerate samples immediately after collection. If the samples cannot be sent to the lab within 24 hours, freeze at -70°C. **Do not** freeze in a household freezer (-10°C). If the samples can be sent to the laboratory immediately, transport samples with cold packs in a leak-proof, well-insulated container to the above address.